

RESOLUTION NO. 20080605-046

WHEREAS, the City of Austin was initially planned around four squares, with the remaining squares of Wooldridge, Brush, and Republic identified as the core of the Downtown Austin Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Parks Foundation, the Downtown Austin Alliance, the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association, the Heritage Society of Austin and many other stakeholders have studied the historical significance and the condition of, and made efforts to honor, our Downtown Squares and also our heritage homes including Trask, Castleman-Bull, Susanna Dickinson, and O. Henry; and

WHEREAS, the historic squares of Republic, Wooldridge, and Brush, in addition to Waller Creek and other Downtown parks are assets to the City of Austin and have become valuable open spaces as the redevelopment of Downtown occurs; and

WHEREAS, the area around Brush Square is the hub of our tourist industry with potential for more growth with the Convention Center as the downtown station for the Capital Metro Commuter Rail line, the development of the Waller Creek District, and the proximity to the Sixth Street entertainment area; and

WHEREAS, the lack of awareness and interconnectivity to these areas throughout our downtown, is hindering both the growth of our tourism district while also preventing residents of all ages from enjoying the Downtown open areas and heritage homes; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager be directed to

- a. Identify potential funding sources, including the hotel occupancy tax, for a comprehensive Downtown Open Spaces Plan that would include condition reports on each of the historic squares, the heritage homes, other downtown parks and open spaces, and include a preliminary wayfinding plan,
- b. Evaluate the feasibility of incorporating the Downtown Open Spaces Plan in addition to the scope of work already identified for the Phase II of the Downtown Austin Plan,
- c. Identify staff resources that would execute a comprehensive Downtown Open Spaces Plan that takes into account all previous planning efforts made by community and stakeholder groups.

ADOPTED: June 5, 2008

ATTEST: _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk